

REMARKS

The Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 15, 17, 24, 25 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action states that the words "without appending a header" which were added to the independent claims in a previous response are not supported by the specification.

To more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention (i.e., to make this previous amendment clearer), Applicants have amended each of the independent claims to add the words --to each formatted frame of each cell--. As the Examiner points out, the specification does indicate that a header is contained within each ATM cell. However, an ATM cell is not the equivalent of an AAL frame.

In sum, though the present invention does make use of ATM cells which have a header, the present invention does not require that each frame within an ATM cell be appended with a header. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention does provide support for the transportation of IP packets over an IP backplane using an ATM cell which includes a header but does not require that each frame within each ATM cell be appended with its own header.

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 15, 17, 24-25 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keshav, U.S. Patent No. 5,623,605 ("Keshav") in view of the draft ITU-T Recommendation H.323 ("H.323").

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

As indicated above, the present invention requires an ATM cell to be transported from one ATM network to another ATM network without appending a header to each formatted frame of each cell. In contrast, Keshav requires the addition of 30 bytes to each AAL voice frame that is already 47 bytes long. Adding an additional 30 bytes requires the use of additional bandwidth, an undesirable feature of Keshav. The addition of the disclosure in the H.323 document does not overcome this deficiency.

The present invention does not require that a separate header be appended to each frame, be it an AAL frame or data frame, of an ATM cell. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present invention would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art upon reading Keshav in combination with the H.323 document at the time the present application was filed.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejects and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 15, 17, 24-25 and 30-32.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

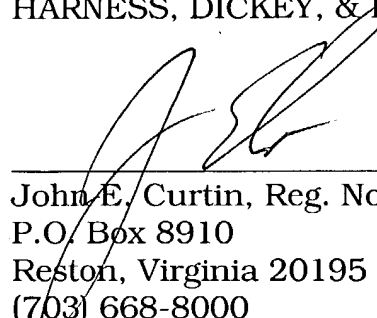
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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